

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia, Pa.

COINER'S DEPARTMENT.

May 18th, 1887

Hon D. M. Fox.

Superintendent.

Sir.

In reply to the inquiry of the Director in his letter of the 16th inst. relative to alleged variations in size of nickel five cent pieces and desiring to be informed of the diameter of the pieces struck last year. I have the honor to state that in regard to the nickel five cent pieces in question. they may vary slightly in size owing to the wear of the collar caused by friction with the hard metal. as was noticed in some instances during the recent re-coining of one and five cent nickel, but careful observation at the Coining Presses is required to detect any appreciable increase in size of the collar and as soon as a collar becomes a

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little worn or rough it is replaced by a new one. The diameter of the 5¢ nickel pieces cannot be expressed in twentieths of an inch without giving fractions, as it was made after the French measure, which does not correspond to ours. The diameter of this coin is $21\frac{10}{30}$ millimetres or $\frac{835}{1000}$ of an inch, and I would state, the Act of Congress only provides for weight and fineness of the coin.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant,
W. D. Steel

Coiner.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 145

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Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant
W.S. Steel
Coiner.